

REMARKS

The Official Action of July 14, 2006, and the prior art cited and relied upon therein have been carefully studied. The claims in the application are now claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9-12 and 16-18, and these claims define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Favorable reconsideration and such allowance are respectfully urged.

Claims 6 and 8 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9-12 and 16-18 remain in the application for consideration.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication that claims 9, 14 and 16-18 have been allowed.

In response to the Examiner's rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Applicant has cancelled claim 8 and amended claim 4 to eliminate the problem identified by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully submits that these rejections have now been overcome.

The Examiner has further rejected claims 1, 4-6 and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nightingale '533 in view of Glodin '963, and claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the prior art as applied to claim 1 further in view of Herber '510. Applicant

respectfully traverses these rejections as applied to the claims as amended.

The primary inventive feature of the present invention resides in a preassembled cage formed as a unit wherein cylindrical rollers are embedded together with the cage in a solid lubricant in advance of being fitted into a race that is constructed to engage a preassembled cage as claimed; instead of charged or packed into the race where the rollers alone have been arrayed as shown in the prior art. Applicant submits that the cited prior art combinations do not teach either a preassembled cage as claimed or a race in which such preassembled race is engaged.

The preassembled cage constructed according to the claimed invention, moreover, is made with the help of a difference in thermal expansion between the mold parts. This molding procedure makes it possible to expose the rollers at their rolling surfaces above the inside circular surface of the shaped unitary article.

The solid lubricant solidified in advance in a shaped unitary article does not flow or creep into the oil passage which is open to the raceway in the stud. Accordingly, there is no interference with the rotation of the

outer ring relative to the stud. Thus, the oil passage in the stud serves well to supply or replenish lubricating oil.

Figs. 6 and 13 of Baile '415 listed in Applicant's January 9, 2006, Information Disclosure Statement discloses a lubricating matrix 30, 52 that is severed at one location and flexible enough to permit being expanded radially to engage over the flange of the inner ring 12. In this way the lubricating matrix 30, 52 is made to be held in the raceway groove 16. Moreover, lubricating matrix 30 is cast with either the roller 28 or the balls 50, but without a cage as in the construction of the claimed invention. Thus, the unitary full complement bearing component in Baile is quite different in motivation and concept from the rolling-contact bearing of stud type for a tracking roller.

In Glodin, the rolling element 5 which is formed as a ball is embedded in the compound 1 along with the cage 4. The compound 1 is cast or extruded between the inner and outer rings and is not preassembled before engagement in the race formed by inner and outer races 2, 3 and if it were, could not be engaged between the inner and outer races as it is larger than the race formed. The compound 1 with the rolling bodies 5 is provided to fill in between the recessed circular raceway grooves of the inner race 2 and outer race 3, and solidly together with the inner race 2 and outer race 3. This is

clearly different from the claimed preassembled cage which can be engaged in the claimed race formed to accept the preassembled cage. With the construction of Glodin, moreover, there is no oil passage as set out in the claimed invention in either the inner race and the outer race and the rolling elements are balls rather than the claimed cylindrical rollers.

Nightingale '533 discloses a conventional cam follower having no solid lubricant. With the version having the retainer 70 as shown in Fig. 4, an outer racing 60 is used which has land portions 62 and 64 formed integrally therewith. The land portion 62 and 64 define a channel 65 forming an outer raceway for the rollers 67. Applicant submits the Nightingale construction noted above cannot be assembled with a preassembled cage as in the claimed invention. In Nightingale, a preassembled cage as claimed, if severed at one location as noted above in Baile, might fit in the Nightingale raceway groove. But, in this case, the retainer 70 has to be also severed at one location.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combined teachings of Nightingale with those of Glodin and Baile do not disclose features of a preassembled cage and a race structured to engage such preassembled cage as claimed, and therefore there is neither certainty nor motivation to combine

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Nightingale with Glodin and Baile to disclose the claimed invention. Accordingly, even if one were to combine the teachings of the cited prior art, the claimed invention would not be realized. Applicant further respectfully submits the term "preassembled" is not a process limitation as used herein as it is directed to a structural relationship between claimed structural elements not taught in the cited prior art and their further structural relationship to additional claim elements.

The prior art documents made of record and not relied upon have been noted along with the implication that such documents are deemed by the PTO to be insufficiently pertinent to warrant their applications against any of applicant's claims.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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